

12 November 1951

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

FROM: Assistant Director, Research and Reports

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SUBJECT: Briefing of [] on program of [] on Wednesday, November 7 from ten to twelve A.M.

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1. Present at this meeting were the following: []

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[], all of the PSB; Mr. Millikan, representing Mr. Dulles; Colonel [] of the PSB staff; Mr. Devine, representing Mr. Barrett of State; and Messrs. []

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2. [] made a few introductory remarks explaining that [] one ambition was not to duplicate the work of operating and policy making agencies in Washington but to be of maximum possible service to them. He indicated that the four main segments of [] present activities would be discussed by the other four [] representatives present.

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3. [] described the present state of his plans for assisting in rehabilitation of defectors. These involve studies of the following sorts:

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4. [] described his study of Soviet communications. This involves first, an examination of the Soviet government as a communication system or control mechanism and an examination of what you can do to interfere

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with this mechanism and second, exploring the question of whether a control mechanism so centralized can continue to exist. There are four more specific jobs involved in this project.

a. A detailed study of mechanisms of control of Soviet economic activity.

b. An examination of various ways in which information is spread in the Soviet Union, especially the role played by a rumor.

c. A study of what in Soviet society are the conditions for the credibility of an idea, a piece of information, or a person. What for Soviet citizens makes things believable?

d. An experiment in training people to predict the way in which someone in the Soviet control network will behave by placing him in an artificially created counterpart network which will duplicate the conditions of Soviet controls.

5. [] described the Soviet vulnerability project. This is the project on which [] seeks the guidance of the Advisory Board which they are convening on Friday the 16th. It has two major parts.

a. An examination of the existing literature and research on Soviet society is being made in an attempt to summarize those research results which are likely to be most useful in assisting operators and policy makers. This is mostly an examination of research which has already been done but is scattered in various places in the literature, but it involves one or two pieces of original investigation, including a project on the behavior and attitudes of Soviet leaders based upon interviews with as many people as possible who have had contact with these leaders.

b. The second part of the project involves exploring with various Government agencies a series of operating problems on which those agencies seek research guidance. Examples include (1) []

[] (2) The Air Force is interested in having a systematic look taken at what political, propaganda, and diplomatic program ought to accompany any bombing plan which we may be called upon to implement in order to maximize the favorable and minimize the unfavorable consequences to our position of carrying out such a bombing program. (3) The Voice of America is interested in securing help on what themes it would be most effective for the Voice to stress. (4) Several more conventionally diplomatic problems are under discussion with the State Department such as, for example, what will be the effect on Soviet attitudes of an attempted unification of Germany and how could this be done so as to pull the Satellites by the West instead of the East.

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6. [] explained that as to the mechanics of this project it was proposed to proceed with a very small corps of people with full clearance to maintain intimate contact with the operating agencies in Washington and to give guidance to a wider band of scholars on the periphery of the project who will be asked to write essays in answer to specific questions. The documents resulting from this activity will be discussed and cleared in so far as possible with [] and with operating officials in Washington. Maximum contact with Washington agencies is sought first through the requested assignment of a man from each of several agencies to work for some months in [] and second, through the delegation of one of the members of [] to make it his primary duty to develop close working level contact in Washington.

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7. [] the technical member of the team, described three general technical areas in which [] is working.

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a. [] is involved in some work for Voice of America along three lines: (1) The development of a so-called coherent array transmitter capable of laying down very much stronger signals behind the Iron Curtain than anything developed to date, (2) the development of a very inexpensive compact and efficient receiver based on the use of transistors in place of conventional radio tubes, and (3) the development of a system for relaying radio messages across the Atlantic, which, unlike the present arrangements, will be proof against Soviet jamming and will have a very much greater capacity.

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b. Work is being done in consultation with the Office of Scientific Intelligence on the technical vulnerabilities of the Soviet Union, for example, []

c. Exploratory talks are going on with OSI as to ways in which [] can assist in the general problem of scientific intelligence.

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